

Vancouver Barracks, Chapel  
(Building 701)  
McClelland and McLoughlin Roads  
Vancouver  
Clark County  
Washington

HABS No. WA-206-A

HABS  
WASH  
6-VANCO,  
4A-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

HABS  
WASH  
6-VANCO,  
4A-

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY**

**VANCOUVER BARRACKS, CHAPEL  
(Building 701)**

**HABS No. WA-206-A**

**Location:** Vancouver Barracks  
Vancouver, Washington  
Clark County

U.S.G.S.. Vancouver Quadrangle 1:2400  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates  
10 526300 5052540

**Present Owner:** United States of America  
U.S. Army

**Present Use:** Not in Use

**Present Occupant:** Unoccupied

**Significance:** Vancouver Barracks Chapel (Building 701)  
is considered a contributing (Category II)  
historic property to the Vancouver Barracks  
Historic District. Vancouver Barracks is  
significant for its role in the defense of  
the Pacific Northwest and its place in Army  
administrative history. The buildings  
within the historic district form the  
administrative core of the post and reflect  
a distinctive range of architectural styles  
used by the military between 1881 and 1919.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1892
2. Architect/builder: unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army
4. Original plans and construction: unknown
5. Alterations and additions:
  - 1937 - Installation of heating furnace
  - 1938 - Construction of chancel platform
  - c.1965 - Installation of interior wall board

B. Historic Context:

Vancouver Barracks has been in almost continuous service since its establishment as a military post in 1849. The historic district includes thirty-two contributing properties constructed between 1881 and 1936. Although some of the structures are modest in size and architectural detailing, they collectively convey the late nineteenth and early twentieth century development of the original 640 acre reservation. Located within proximity to Hudson Bay Company's Fort Vancouver, Vancouver Barracks was established in order to ensure the orderly settlement of the Oregon Territory and gradually became the Army's principle administrative center in the Pacific Northwest. By 1854, the post consisted of 41 log and wood frame structures. The garrison, lying roughly within the present 62 acre Vancouver Barracks boundary, primarily housed troops and by the late nineteenth century served as a mobilization and training center. Numerous post buildings were gradually constructed through the end of the nineteenth century. They were typically grouped and oriented in relation to the parade ground. Extant structures within the historic district and the adjacent Officers' Row include numerous officers' residences, a set of Infantry Barracks (Building 607) and the Hospital Steward's Quarters (Building 631) constructed during the 1880s. The Chapel, reported to have been built in 1892, was constructed near the Infantry Barracks and served both as a chapel and lecture hall including a classroom/kindergarten space. The architectural design of the Chapel is substantially different from that of other extant late-nineteenth post buildings. It exhibits definitive features and historic building fabric indicative of the romantic/picturesque house styles popularly used in the mid

to late-nineteenth century. Several examples of the Swiss Chalet style were included in the pattern book *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850) and popularized by its author Andrew Jackson Downing and others. Fort Simcoe and Fort Dalles, other early Pacific Northwest military posts, include buildings based on designs from this pattern book source. The combining of stylist features, as exhibited by the subject property, is also indicative of the popular influence of A.J.Downing and the impact of pattern book designs. The Chapel could accommodate 300 people and remained unchanged until the late 1930s when minor interior changes and a new hot water heating system was installed. The use and size of Vancouver Barracks were substantially decreased after W.W.II. Since 1958, Vancouver Barracks has served as a subinstallation to Fort Lewis for Army Reserve purposes. The Chapel appears to have been essentially unused and not maintained for several years.

## Part II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Distinguished by Stick style decorative elements. Low-pitched front-gabled roof form and bracketed eaves are indicative of Swiss chalet stylist influences. Intact late nineteenth century building fabric throughout.
2. Condition of fabric: Portions of the building are seriously deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. The roof structure and roofing materials have begun to fail and substantial water damage has occurred within the interior of the building.

### B. Description of Exterior (HABS Photos WA-206-A-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8):

1. Overall dimensions: Two story with basement, irregular cruciform plan approximately 52' x 92'-6"
2. Foundations: Brick masonry with common bond
3. Walls: Exterior clad with variegated (vertical & horizontal) siding laid in a distinctive pattern. Horizontal members are grooved shiplap accentuating the first floor window level. Vertical siding is flush 1x6 wrapping the upper walls and gable ends. The vertical siding members follow the roofline at the gable ends with each member terminated in a repeated pointed edge an identifying Swiss Chalet style feature. The gable end at the primary north elevation is further distinguished by

decorative diagonal flat stickwork, an identifying Stick style feature.

4. Structural system: Two-story, wood frame 2x4 stud system

5. Exterior features:

a. Porch: A full width recessed entrance porch (8'x 38') is located at the primary north elevation with chamfered wooden posts and low porch rail. A small exit porch is located at the south elevation.

b. Roof brackets: The eaves and gable ends include a band of distinctive roof brackets which in conjunction with the vertical siding create a strong horizontal upper story band around the building.

c. Chimneys: Brick masonry chimneys are located at the outside end of the east elevation gable and the interior of the south and west gables.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Double-leaf wood moulded four panel type doors with transom at main entrance north elevation. Double-leaf glazed wooden service doors at south elevation.

b. Windows: Typically tall narrow one-over-one double-hung wooden sash with wood surrounds. Generally hung in pairs. Basement windows are multi-pane wooden sash in segmental arched openings.

7. Roof:

a. Shape/covering: Cross gable roof form with wide overhanging bracketed eaves. Low-pitched front-gabled roof covered by deteriorated asphalt shingles.

C. Description of Interior (HABS Photo WA-206-A-9-10-11-12-13):

1. Floor plans: First floor includes central entry hall flanked on each side by office/study rooms (14'-8" x 11'-5"), an auditorium/chapel space (37'x 50') with side areas (6'x 38'), chancel, sanctuary (9'x 17') with adjacent office (9'x 8'-5") and kindergarten space with toilet room. A balcony is located directly above the exterior entrance porch and the first floor entry hall and office/study rooms. The balcony includes two classrooms (13'-4"x 7'-10") and a storage area. The basement level is an unfinished utility space with the exception of a dark room and photo lab (approx. 24'x 16').

2. Stairway: The balcony is accessed by a wooden stairway with handrail.

3. Flooring: Narrow hardwood flooring typical.

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: Original tongue & groove horizontal paneling has been covered by plywood wainscot and fiber wallboard panels.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Original moulded four-panel type doors at entrance hall and chapel. Moulded four panel type sliding doors, that originally opened place but have been enclosed to the office/study side and no longer operate.

b. Windows: Window and door openings within the auditorium/chapel space include modest pedimented header trim.

6. Decorative features: The interior space of the chapel is distinguished by a Tudor arch over the sanctuary and double sets of Tudor arches at each side of the auditorium/chapel space. Within each of the auditorium side areas are a fireplace opening and hearth area. The ceiling area of the chapel is surrounded by a decorative arched pattern molding. The space also includes dropped wooden light fixtures and ornate circular ceiling vents.

7. Hardware: Original door hardware has been removed throughout.

8. Mechanical systems: Hot water heating system with radiators throughout first floor and balcony.

D. Site

1. General siting and orientation: Building 701 is situated on a southerly sloping site at the intersection of McClelland Road and McLoughlin Road in the southwest sector of the original military post. The primary facade is oriented to the North and in the direction of the historic parade ground and Officers' Row. Three other structures which also date from the late nineteenth century are situated within relatively close proximity to the Chapel. Subsequent 1904-07 expansion of the post and the construction of Barracks (Buildings 989, 987 and 993) and Post Headquarters (Building 991) along McClelland Road has diminished the physical relationship between the Chapel, the parade ground and the contemporary Officers' housing, situated outside the boundaries of the Vancouver Barracks Historic District.

**Part III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**A. Bibliography**

Misc. Architectural Drawings, Housing & Engineering Services, Ft. Lewis, WA.

HABS/HAER Inventory card, November 1985

Historic Properties Report - Fort Lewis and Vancouver Barracks, June 1986

Vancouver Barracks Maintenance and Repair Manual, n.d.

Vancouver Barracks National Register Nomination, June 1986

Vancouver Barracks Real Estate Books, Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

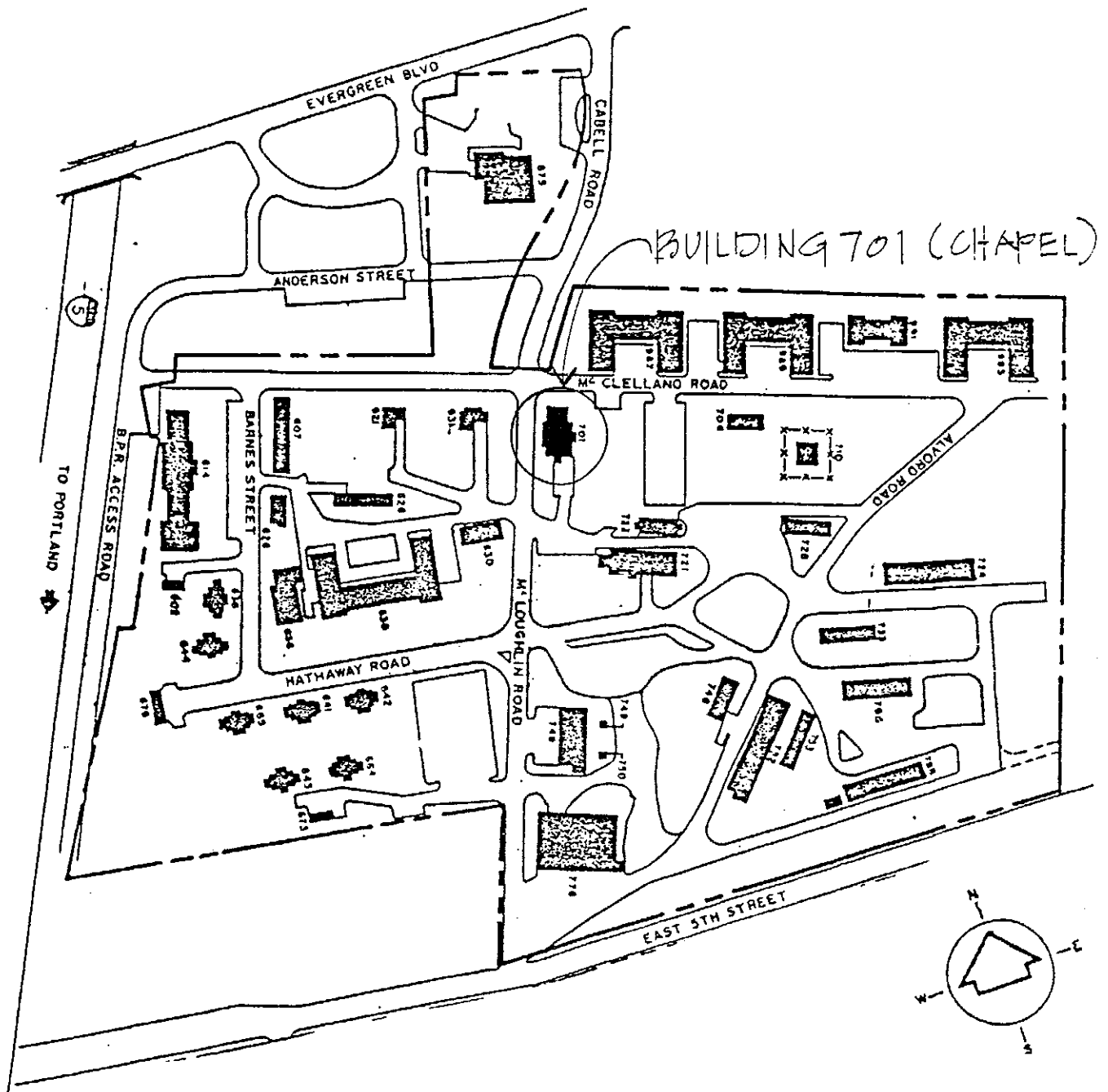
**B. Interviews**

Bill Shell, Vancouver Barracks Chief Engineer, January 1994.

**Part IV. PROJECT INFORMATION**

The U.S. Army, I Corps and Fort Lewis, WA (Army) are considering a proposal to relocate or remove Building 701. It has been determined that such a project, if or when undertaken, will have an effect and that the subject property is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the interested parties on October 11, 1991. The Agreement stipulated that prior to the relocation or removal of Building 701, the U.S. Army, I Corps and Fort Lewis contact HABS/HAER at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, to determine the appropriate level of recordation for the subject property. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet that stipulation.

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VANCOUVER BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
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